



Silverton STANDARD & the MINER

Weekly Miner
established 1875

SILVERTON'S PIONEER NEWSPAPER SINCE 1875

Silverton Standard
established 1889

Volume 137, Issue 44 May 3, 2012



1260658 - R8 SDMS

50¢



Mark Esper/Silverton Standard
Pat Dworkin of Durango, a member of the Victorian Aid Society, anxiously awaits the train of the 2010 season to arrive in Silverton.

TRAIN TIME!

The Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad will kick off the opening of summer service to Silverton with the annual Narrow Gauge Day celebration in front of the Durango depot at 479 Main Avenue.

This free community event will be Friday, May 4, 2012 from 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

In addition to a complimentary picnic and a performance by the Bar D Wranglers, the railroad will have some of its Premium-Class cars on display for the public to view and walk-through.

Members of CarbonZero will be present to give away 300 small trees that have been purchased by the railroad as part of the ongoing green efforts.

The D&SNGRR begins summer service to Silverton on Saturday, May 5, at 8:30 a.m. The first train arrives in Silverton at noon. This opening day is known as "Silverton Salutations," and the community takes part to make it a festive celebration.

Several residents will be dressed in old-fashioned garb as the train opens its 130th year of service to the old mining town.

And the Silverton Brass Band will be playing at the corner of 12th and Blair to greet train riders.

The railroad will host a complimentary continental breakfast in the Silverton depot at 10th and Cement streets in Silverton from 10 a.m. until 11:30 a.m.

For schedules, fares, special events and packages, please visit www.durangotrain.com or call 1-888-TRAIN-07 (872-4607).

'Today Show' story to air ... sometime



Did you miss it?

We can no longer predict when the "Today Show" story on the *Silverton Standard* will actually air. It had been tentatively scheduled to air on Friday, May 4. Then it was rescheduled for Thursday, May 3, but then it was promptly "bumped" according to "Today Show" producer Ian Wenger.

The story on the *Standard* is reported by Bob Dotson, who does

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The show can also be watched on the "Today Show" Web site. Meanwhile, the historical marker for the *Silverton Standard & the Miner*, the oldest continually operated newspaper on the Western Slope of Colorado, will be dedicated in Silverton on Saturday, May 5.

The newspaper is now one of 93 national Historic Sites in Journalism listed by the Society of Professional Journalists, and is the only newspa-

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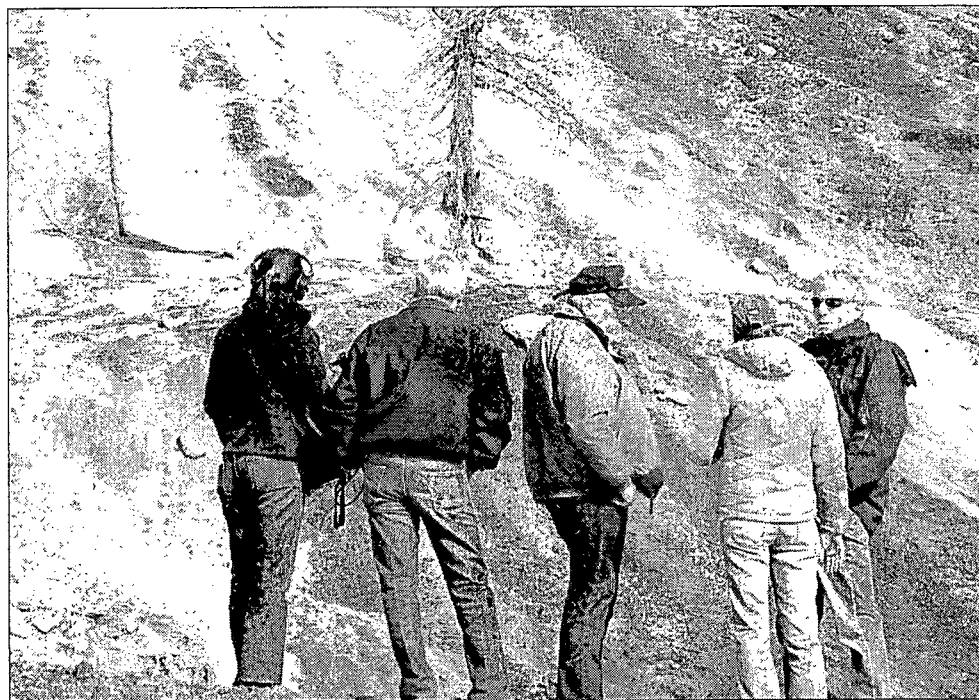
The ceremony is scheduled for 1 p.m. at the San Juan County Historical Society Museum. The public is invited.

The historical society acquired the newspaper in 2009 and operates it as a nonprofit.

INSIDE:

Special section — The First Draft of History

'This has changed dramatically'



Mark Esper/Silverton Standard & the Miner
Sen. Mark Udall, D-Colo., right, visited the Red & Bonita mine site above Gladstone on Saturday, April 28, to get a first-hand look at the problem of acid-mine drainage in the upper Animas Basin. With him are (from left) Colorado Public Radio reporter Elise Thatcher, Sunnyside Gold Corp. reclamation manager Larry Perino, Animas River Stakeholders Group coordinator Steve Fearn, and Ouray County Commissioner Lynn Padgett.

Udall finds a complex problem

By Mark Esper

A field trip by Sen. Mark Udall, D-Colo., to the Red & Bonita mine portal on Saturday, April 28, provided some insight into the complex nature of the acid-mine drainage pouring into upper Cement Creek.

Over the course of just a few months, the change in the appearance of the discharge of about 320 gallons per minute of tainted water from the mine above Gladstone that had been abandoned more than a century ago surprised even those who have been closely monitoring the site.

Senator sees 'Good Samaritan' law as a way to stem 'toxic soup' flow from abandoned mine sites

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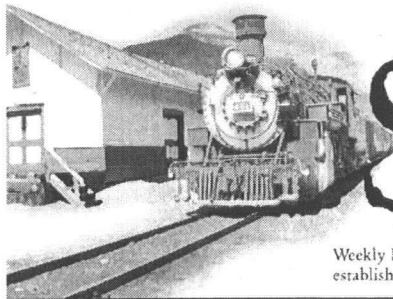
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See UDALL, Page 6



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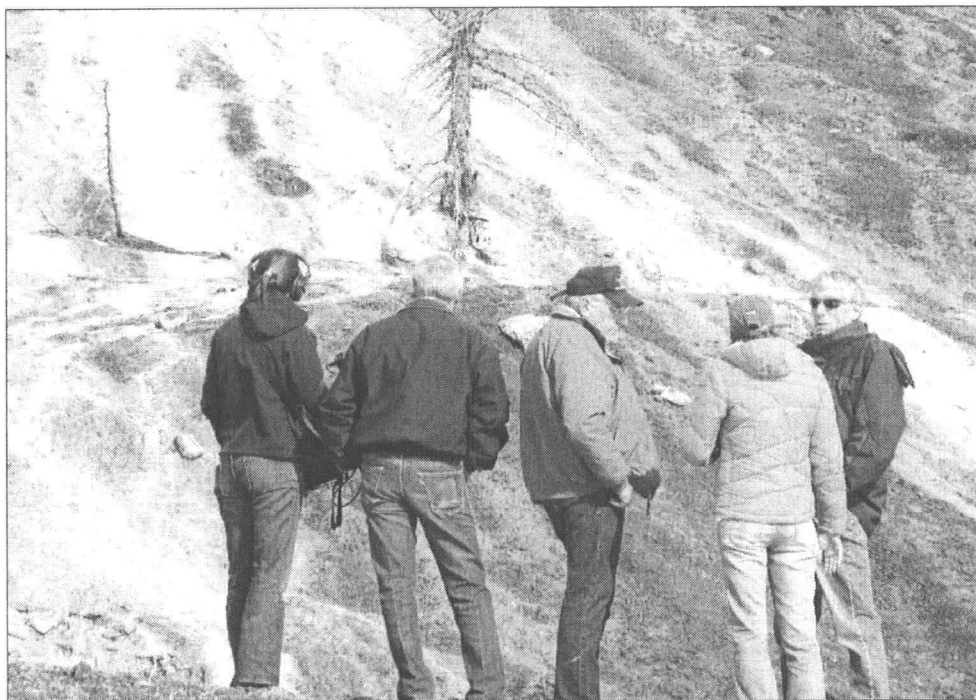
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A National Historic Site in Journalism
— Society of Professional Journalists

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Subscriptions are \$24 per year for Silverton residents; \$48 per year for all other deliveries by U.S. mail. Digital e-mail delivery is available at \$26 per year.

Our goals

The *Silverton Standard & the Miner* is a weekly newspaper written for people interested in the issues and news of Silverton, Colo., and the surrounding San Juan Mountains region. The *Standard* voices a strong sense of community for Silverton and the San Juans as it brings you the issues, characters, landscapes, and the talent of the region. Stressing in-depth, balanced, and thoughtful writing, news, photography, and topical articles on key issues affecting the region, the *Standard* keeps the greater San Juan community informed, entertained, provoked, and engaged in dialogue about the community and its future.



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ASSOCIATION

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2011 CPA awards:
Photo and Design
Sweepstakes winner

- Best News Story
- Best Deadline News Writing
- Best Sustained Coverage
- Best Headline Writing
- Best News Photograph
- Best Photo Essay
- Best Editorial Layout
- Best News Page Design
- Best Ad Layout and Design
- Best Newspaper Promotion

EDITORS' OPINIONS

The newspaper that refused to die

By Mark Esper

This will be an amazing weekend for the *Silverton Standard & the Miner*.

This morning, May 3, the NBC "Today Show" is scheduled to air a story on the community effort to keep the *Standard* alive.

This will be an "American Story" feature with reporter Bob Dotson. I'm in the process of assembling a Crisis Management Task Force to help me answer the phone that day. I've calculated that if only one of each 10,000 viewers were to call, it would amount to hundreds of phone calls. So if you call and get a busy signal today, you'll know why.

Then Saturday, the first train of the season is scheduled to arrive at High Noon.

And at 1 p.m. everyone is invited to the dedication ceremony for the beautiful historical marker presented to the *Silverton Standard & the Miner* by the Society of Professional Journalists.

The *Standard* thereby becomes the only newspaper in Colorado to win such recognition. There are 93 such sites in the United States, including Ben Franklin's print shop, *The Wall Street Journal*, the *Chicago Tribune*

See ESPER, Page 8

This week, two former editors and publishers of the *Silverton Standard* were invited to write about their experience running this old newspaper.

Larry Duthie and his wife, Roz, acquired the paper 40 years ago, in 1972, purchasing it from Allen Nossaman. They operated the paper until 1975. That's when George Chapman and his wife, Karen, took over the paper and operated it for 15 years.

The Duthies: 'An important and transformative time ...'

By Larry Duthie

My wife, Roz, and I co-published the *Silverton Standard and the Miner* for just under four years, selling it to George and Karen Chapman at the end of 1975. Ours was a brief tenure compared to the longer stints bracketed by Allen Nossaman before us and the Chapmans after. Yet those three years and ten months were an important and transformative time, for both the newspaper and us.

We purchased the newspaper in February 1972 from Nossaman, who sold the newspaper because he had been appointed District Court Judge. We signed the final sales documents on a golden-oak table in his office at

See DUTHIE, Page 8

The Chapmans: 'There were the good times, and the bad ...'

By George Chapman

When Karen and I purchased the *Silverton Standard* in 1975, neither of us had spent any time west of the Mississippi, outside of one week in Arizona the year before. While I did visit Silverton in September 1975 (the day after the infamous depot bombing), Karen and our children had not been there until the snowy evening in December that we pulled into town to stay.

We arrived just three years after the most significant change made in the history of the paper. Roz and Larry Duthie had purchased the paper from Allen Nossaman in 1972 and converted it to offset printing, meaning that

See CHAPMAN, Page 8



Artistic license on Greene St.

By Freddie Canfield

Temperatures moderated this final week of April 2012. After a 62-degree high on Wednesdays, 50s were the story through May Day.

Nocturnally, we remained below freezing, except Thursday night into Friday morning.

Thursday we received an intense early spring meteorological surprise, with .3 inches in the rain gauge along with thunder, lightning, and pouring rain. Grass is now decidedly green. Snow is about gone from the valley floor and all visible portions of Anvil Mountain from the vantage point of Silverton.

Dandelions continue to bloom, now joined by tiny blue-eyed grass flowers. Sunlight warms us for fully 12 hours when clouds do not intervene. Judy Zimmerman has already planted beets and onions.

The Animas River and tributaries are not up much yet. So time to get with incantations, prayers and rain dances from now until fall. We need the rain!

April provided .64 inches of water, of that a meager 3.1 inches of snow, bringing our seasonal total to only 137 inches.

Evaporation and sublimation and gone with the wind are the story this spring, along with the

WEATHER AND OBSERVATIONS

Date	High	Low	Precip., conditions
April 25	62	31	Slightly overcast
April 26	59	32	.30, slight overcast
April 27	52	26	Light overcast
April 28	54	25	Partly overcast
April 29	56	21	Clear
April 30	59	21	Slightly overcast
May 1	59	26	Virtually clear

warmest temperatures on record.

Artistic license has ensued on Greene Street. Edith Mary Eggett took a paint brush to a 55-gallon can that graces the sidewalk in front of her shop. A perfect match with Henry Smith's cheerful paint job. We are sure Henry approves. Good going, E.M.!

Write to us

The *Silverton Standard & the Miner* welcomes letters to the editor. Send letters via e-mail to editor@silvertonstandard.com, or via snail mail to, Editor, *Silverton Standard & the Miner*, P.O. Box 8, Silverton, CO 81433.

FROM THE STANDARD MAIL CAR



Wow, Silverton! What a great community

Editor:
Silverton and Beyond:
WOW! What a great community! On behalf of the the Clauson Family and the staff at Mother Kluckers, I would like to extend sincere thanks to all who helped make the fundraiser on Friday night a HUGE success.

Through generous donations and sales generated by locals and strangers alike, in excess of \$2,000 was raised to help offset expenses incurred during John's treatment.

Special thanks goes out to Katy Rende, Julie Vonn, Marc "88" Kloster, Justin "Cuz" Ebelheiser, Alex "Kimono" Hunt and Monica Cienfuegos for their hard work and generous donations of time, tips and labor.

Thanks to Chris Chambers and Mark Gober for jumping through last-minute hoops.

Grady, thanks for inspiring us all to put this together and for your serving talent. Nina, thanks for the desserts!

Thank you to the *Silverton Standard* for their generous promotion, and to Scott Conrad at Southwest Beverage for donating product.

Mostly, though thanks goes out to all who participated, chowed down, and gave beyond what was requested. From passerby tourists, the SVFD, and many locals who helped "stuff the boot" in the last couple of weeks.

To everyone who came out and proved that Silverton takes care of its own, thank you!

— Gregory Custer, Silverton

See LETTERS, Page 7

Issues aired at mining conference

By Mark Esper

More than 100 people attended a conference at Kendall Mountain Community Center on Thursday, April 26, listening to a wide range of perspectives on hardrock mining and its impact on water quality.

The conference, hosted by Mountain Studies Institute, comes at a time when environmental agencies, concerned citizens and mining proponents are trying to cope with acid-mine drainage leaking into the Animas River watershed from various mine portals in the San Juan Mountains.

One of the more serious challenges involves the flow of tainted water from the American Tunnel at Gladstone.

Larry Perino, reclamation manager for Sunnyside Gold Corp., which accessed its mine through the American Tunnel from 1985 to 1991, presented a brief history of the famed Sunnyside Mine.

The mine was operated "fairly continuously" from 1880 to 1920, Perino said, with the last historic operations dating to 1936. During that period the mine's access was through portals at Lake Emma, above Eureka Gulch.

In 1958, Standard Metals began work to extend the American Tunnel from Gladstone to a length of some 10,000 feet to the vast Sunnyside mine holdings.

Perino attributed the 1991 mine closure to low metal prices and depleted reserves at the mine. Sunnyside Gold conducted reclamation work from 1991 to 1995. In 1996, the company entered into a consent decree with the Colorado Water Quality Control Division to embark on various cleanup projects, which included plugging the American Tunnel with three bulkheads and implementation of water treatment to mitigate the impact of "short-term" activities.

Perino said Sunnyside ultimately spent some \$15 million on 20 remediation projects in the region, and in 2003 the firm was released from the consent decree.

The EPA's take

Mike Holmes, project manager for the EPA's Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980 (commonly referred to as Superfund), said that of the 66 CERCLA sites Rocky Mountain region, 35 of them are former mines sites.

And of those six sites in Colorado use active water treatment systems to remove heavy metals from streams.

The largest such site is the 400-square-mile Clear Creek watershed extending from the

"If you want to start a mining operation in San Juan County there is a one-page application that is reviewed by staff. We're not going to throw anything in your way at the local level. Our land-use regulations are short and sweet as they relate to mining."

San Juan County Administrator Willy Tookey

"DRMS does not decide 'should a mine be in this place.' We just don't have that kind of jurisdiction."

Loretta Pineda, director, Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety

"Reasonable rules and regulations are necessary. But they need to be reasonable and attainable. We need to keep that dialogue open and work together."

Bob Larson, mining engineer

Eisenhower Pass to Golden, encompassing some 1,200 abandoned waste rock piles and a number of draining mine adits.

In Idaho Falls, the Argo treatment plant was built in 1996.

"With those plants you get immediate results," Holmes said, but it is not cheap.

"The cost today would generally be \$15 million to build the plant and a million dollars a year to operate it," Holmes said.

The Argo plant produces one roll-off dumpster per day of sludge which is trucked to a landfill in eastern Colorado.

But Holmes said the EPA in more recent years has been trying to narrow the scope of CERCLA sites.

In Creede, for instance, the Superfund site is limited to the Bulldog Mine's Nelson Tunnel, just nine feet wide and two miles long.

And Holmes noted that

Hecla Mining Co. is doing exploratory work at the Bulldog Mine.

"They're looking at dewatering and going back into that ore body," Holmes said. He added that he is having "discussions" with the company to coordinate activities whereby any renewed mining could help pay for water treatment.

"Right now this is at the very beginning," Holmes said.

Regulations

Regulation of new mines was one of the hot topics of the conference. Local mining proponents often complain about the difficulty of getting a new mining operation up and running due to regulatory hurdles.

But San Juan County administrator Willy Tookey said that the county government, for one, is not standing in the way.

"San Juan County is extremely supportive of the mining industry, and that's reflected in our land-use regulations," Tookey said.

He pointed out that mining is the only "use by right" in the county.

"Everything else is subject to review" by the planning commission and county commissioners.

"If you want to start a mining operation in San Juan County there is a one-page application that is reviewed by staff," Tookey said. "We're not going to throw anything in your way at the local level. Our land-use regulations are short and sweet as they relate to mining."

Jane Mannon, spokeswoman for the Cripple Creek and Victor Gold Mine, explained local rules faced by that huge mining operation in Teller County.

The mine is a 5,000-acre operation, employing some 459 people with salary and benefits averaging \$70,000 a year. It operates entirely on private land and produces some 300,000 ounces of gold per year.

She said the mine operates under a state permit, a hazardous materials permit from the U.S. Department of Transportation, explosives permits from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, a water discharge permit and a county mine plan.

Teller County has established a mining overlay district that encompasses the mine property, and requires the company to submit reports on its activities.

Officials with the Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety explained state regulatory procedures for permitting new mines.

Loretta Pineda, DRMS director, said the agency operates on a \$10 million annual budget and oversees 1,539 mine sites and 245 exploratory sites

statewide. That includes operations to extract construction materials such as gravel. A total of 181,000 acres are permitted for mining activities in Colorado and the agency holds \$423 million in bonds to assure reclamation takes place once the mining operations cease.

"DRMS does not decide 'should a mine be in this place'" Pineda said. "We just don't have that kind of jurisdiction."

But the agency does try to assure that mining operations do not cause irreparable harm to the environment.

In San Juan County, DRMS currently has 17 permitted sites. Of those, four are for extracting construction materials, four are for hardrock mining and nine are for exploration.

"We have a thriving mineral industry in the southwest (part of Colorado)," said Willy Erickson of the Durango field office.

He described his role as being a "dirt cop" and he said the agency "can't just sit on it" when an application for a permit is filed.

But mining engineer Steve Fearn of Silverton pointed out that Colorado Goldfields Inc., a Denver-based firm hoping to reopen the Pride of the West mill at Howardsville has been trying to get that operation permitted for three years now.

Fearn said that "in the old days you just went in and went to work" and that for "50 or 60 years metals mining was the economic driver in southwest Colorado. That's changed."

He said that the mining industry today must work with communities to address the wide range of impacts involved. "Sustainable mining is about people and communities," Fearn said. "The environmental

consequences of mining are what we're really talking about today."

Bob Larson, former Ouray County commissioner, and also a mining engineer, said the demise of the mining industry in the San Juan Mountains has severely crippled the region's economy.

"This was a place where we could have good-paying jobs," Larson said. And he argued that it is essential for the United States to develop its resources, pointing to the nation's reliance on China for rare earth minerals.

"No one wants to destroy our beauty or foul the air," Larson said. The question, he said, was how to develop mine without a negative impact on water.

"We need to work together and not be afraid to work with those who think differently than we do."

And Larson said a lot of the heavy metals running in streams originating in the San Juans are natural occurrences because of the heavily mineralized mountains.

He said that journals form the Dominguez-Escalante expedition of 1776 found water in the Uncompahgre River to be "ill tasting" and he said the Ute name for the river itself translated roughly into "red stinking water."

"That described what was there," Larson said.

"Reasonable rules and regulations are necessary," Larson said. "But they need to be reasonable and attainable. We need to keep that dialogue open and work together."

"We can work together and make it a better place for all of us — those in mining, agriculture — and most importantly in the service to others."

Silverton Public School

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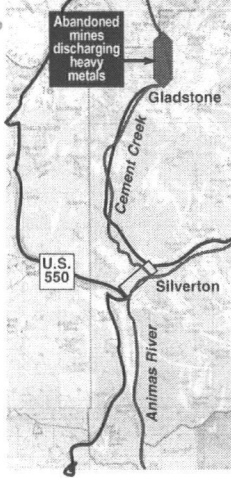


Tel: 970-387-5543

Website: www.silvertonschool.org

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A National Historic Site in Journalism

Source of water woes



UDALL, from Page 1

with the heavy metals pouring from the mine.

The EPA plans to do more work at the site this summer, hoping to determine if there is a way to reduce the drainage.

One possibility is that most of the water gushing from the mine is actually not so bad, and that a smaller source of heavily tainted fluid can be identified and perhaps contained or sealed.

As for Udall, he said the Red & Bonita site is "a classic example of why we need 'Good Samaritan' legislation," describing the mine discharge as a "toxic soup."

Such drainages are blamed



Mark Esper/Silverton Standard & the Miner

ABOVE: The Red & Bonita mine dump, with ruins of the mill in the foreground.

BELOW: The American Tunnel portal, with tainted water gushing out at a rate of hundreds of gallons per minute into Cement Creek.

for pouring tons of heavy metals into the upper Animas River each year, degrading habitat for fish and other aquatic creatures.

Udall has sponsored 'Good Samaritan' legislation in Congress for some 10 years, first

as a Congressman and now as a Senator.

The idea, Udall said, "is to unleash citizens groups to clean up sites like this."

Currently, the stakeholders group, which has worked on

dozens of projects to address the problem of water quality being degraded by former mines, is reluctant to deal with draining mine portals due to the liability involved.

Steve Fearn of Silverton, also a coordinator for the stakeholders group, said the problem is that in doing even evaluation work at such mines, the stakeholders could be held responsible for the discharge and violating water quality standards.

"You might get a 70 percent reduction (in heavy metals discharge) but still not meet the

An old issue

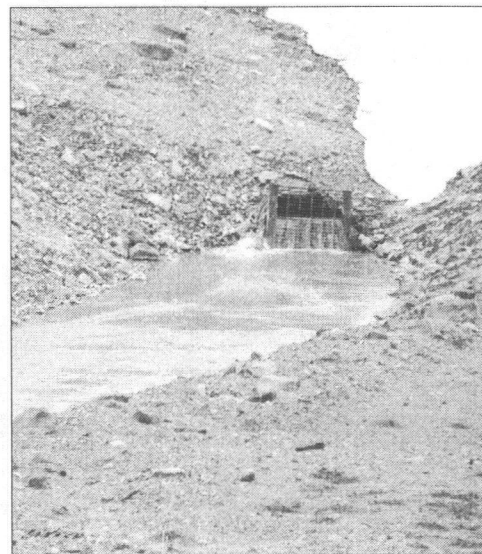
This item from the June 14, 1902 edition of the *Silverton Standard* reports worsening water quality on Cement Creek:

One of the heretofore pleasant sights of Silverton—the ditches running full of clear water—has become a thing of the past. Of late years the water from Cement creek has been muddy, and far from attractive, owing to mill tailings, and now the ditches are being filled up and all traces of them removed.

standard," Fearn said.

"This is one of many sites we want to do remediation work on," Butler told Sen. Udall. But because of the liability exposure "we can't touch these mines. We could still be liable for getting a discharge permit. We're simply not willing to touch

See UDALL, Page 7



Cement Creek's complex problem

Cement Creek has seen a steady increase in metals loading since a treatment plant for mine runoff at Gladstone was shut down in 2004.

The water treatment plant had been operating since the early 1980s, in conjunction with the Sunnyside Mine, which closed in 1991.

Just above the site in Gladstone where the treatment plant once stood lies the portal to the American Tunnel, which was sealed starting in the late 1990s by a series of three bulkheads.

It was hoped the bulkheads would limit discharge of contaminated water from the mine, and for a time, that appeared to be the case.

But about six years ago it was noticed that discharges of water from other mines was increasing.

Now, about 250 gallons per minute are gushing from the Gold King Mine opening above the tunnel. The Mogul and the Red and Bonita mines are also showing increases in discharge as water has risen some 1,000 feet above the American Tunnel level after the bulkheads were put in there.

UDALL, from Page 6

some of these mines."

Thus nonprofit groups and other third parties are reluctant to expose themselves to the resulting liability and potential lawsuits by third parties.

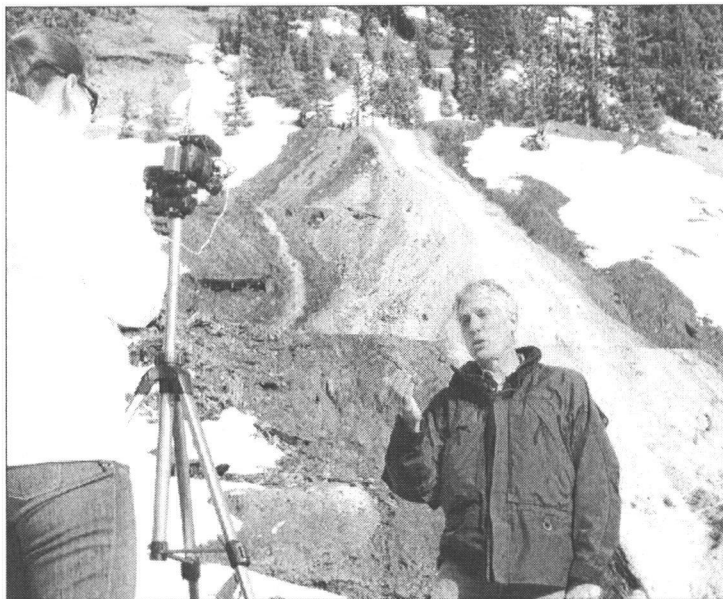
The Red & Bonita mine is among four draining mine adits above Gladstone that are blamed for dumping about 28 tons per year of zinc alone into the upper Animas basin. That's not to mention the other heavy metals entering the Animas.

The problem is considered so serious that the EPA proposed listing the Red & Bonita, the Mogul Mine, the Gold King #7 and the American Tunnel as a Superfund site. That proposal has since been put on hold and the EPA now plans to collaborate with other agencies and companies such as Sunnyside Gold Corp., a subsidiary of mining giant Kinross, to clean up the problem. Sunnyside Gold conducted mining operations out of the American Tunnel in the late 1980s and early 1990s.

Udall said that Colorado is dotted by some 7,000 abandoned mines, some of which are causing degradation in adjacent streams.

He said he has been working with the EPA to adjust administrative procedures that would clear up the liability exposure faced by groups seeking to stem the flow.

"I'm not going to stop until we get a 'Good Samaritan' law," Udall said. "We need to change the law, but not in a way that



Sen. Mark Udall, local officials and representatives of the Animas River Stakeholders Group hiked up to the Red & Bonita mine above Gladstone on Saturday, April 28 to get a first-hand look at water-quality problems related to acidic water laden with heavy metals flowing from mine openings.

"We need to change the law, but not in a way that would let 'bad actors' take advantage."

Sen. Mark Udall

would let 'bad actors' take advantage."

He applauded the stakeholders group for taking on the chal-

lenge as being among "the best Colorado has to offer."

Udall said that he feels "most of the mining community

wants to be a good neighbor," but Colorado must still deal with a legacy of decades of unregulated mining practices that continue to impact water quality.

And he said that while "Good Samaritan" legislation would be helpful, "it can't solve all our problems. But we can't afford to look away."

LETTERS, from Page 2

An eye-opening experience starts at a farmer's market

Editor:

Recently, I did something great for my town ... I left.

Leaving gave me a chance to be the tourist, and this was truly an eye-opening experience, one which I can take back to better serve Silverton.

Many of the towns that I visited, whose main economy is tourism, had daily outside markets. At these markets, people would set up a little booth and a table, or just lay their wares on the ground; they sold local produce and handmade crafts.

To tell the truth I had no interest in going downtown in most of the places I visited, but after reading the blurb in the guidebook about the local markets, we decided to give the downtown a try.

At the market, which was much larger than the Silverton Farmers Market, with many more crafts and produce, one of my cousins bought a pack of strawberries and I bought a pair of hand-knitted socks.

And then guess what happened? We were downtown and hungry, and a pack of strawberries wasn't really a meal replacement. Since we were downtown we decided to go to a bakery restaurant to get something more substantial. After refilling, we realized we didn't really see any sou-

venir-related items at the market that we wanted so we then decided to visit some of the permanent storefronts. My mom ended up buying some pottery at one of these stores, and my sister found postcards and t-shirts she wanted.

My point in telling this story is that the market is what brought us downtown in the first place, and then we ended up spending the majority of our money in permanent storefronts and restaurants.

If the market had not have been there, I would not have stepped foot downtown. Luckily, the local community knew that hosting the market in an ideal central location not only served the local community, but also served as a tourist draw. They realized that by bringing the tourists downtown they were more likely to spend money that would aid the entire merchant and restaurant populace.

I'm encouraging the town to support the Silverton Farmer's Market moving to Blair Street. Just watch, a town that is mostly vacant or even dead after the train leaves will have life, character, and be a stronger draw for tourist to stay in the area. And though our visitors may spend a handful of their dollars at the market, they will spend the majority of their money in the restaurants and permanent shops.

Sincerely,

Katey Fetchenier, Silverton

Bears back

Some are already wandering into Silverton at night

Warm weather this spring has already brought some bears into Silverton, with tracks seen near the County Courthouse and Wolfie the wolf-dog and the town's unofficial mascot, already busy trying to chase them out of town at night.

Colorado Parks and Wildlife is reminding residents to be "bear aware" to protect bears and people. With temperatures rising into the 70s already across much of Colorado, bears are beginning to emerge from dens and sightings have already been reported in Colorado Springs, Aspen, Durango and Summit County.

"So far the reports that we've received have been mostly just sightings — people seeing bears," said Cory Chick, area wildlife manager for Colorado Springs. "But it's a very good time to remind people that trash is the number one bear attractant and people can do their part by following some simple rules at home."

Colorado Parks and Wildlife advises homeowners to avoid attracting bears by following these simple steps:

- Obey local trash ordinances. In areas without trash ordinances, only put trash out on the



A large black bear on a path in Hillside Cemetery in 2008.

morning of pickup instead of the night before pickup.

- Take down bird feeders during the spring and summer. Once winter ends, birds have many natural food options. Attract birds naturally with flowers and bird baths.

- Keep barbecue grills clean and stored in sheds or garages.
- Feed pets indoors.
- Keep doors and windows to your home closed and locked, especially when no one is home. Garage doors and side doors that are left open for pets are not only an open invitation to thieves they're also an open door for bears to enter homes.

- Lock car doors and don't store food in your vehicle.

"We need people to commit to making a difference for bears in Colorado," explained Rick Cables, director of Colorado Parks

and Wildlife. "Bears are a great part of our wildlife resource but too many of them are being put down because they get too comfortable around people and become a danger."

Colorado is home to an estimated 16,000 to 18,000 black bears. The population is managed through limited fall hunting with localized population goals set in black bear management plans. Colorado Parks and Wildlife biologists are updating many of the local management plans for bears as the agency's research unit continues to expand knowledge of bears, their habitat and their interactions with Colorado's more than 5 million human residents.

More information about living with Colorado's black bears can be found online at <http://wildlife.state.co.us/bears>

DUTHIE, from Page 2

the courthouse, took the keys and launched into a week of work virtually without sleep. In our first six days in town we rented a house, moved into it, unloaded new equipment at the 1257 Greene St. newspaper office and launched into a task we'd have known was folly, if we had any real newspaper experience. During that first week we converted the newspaper's printing from letterpress to the more modern photo-offset process. For the previous 97 years the newspaper had been printed using lead type on presses that clanked and rattled and threw out mists of printing ink.

This was a controversial move, for it meant that although we still did all the writing, typesetting, composition, photography and layout in Silverton, the actual printing would take place on an offset press in Durango. Nossaman held his tongue but thinly disguised his disdain for this modernization. He had worked hard at preserving the rich history of Silverton, and for him that meant continuing to set type with a faltering Model 8 Linotype machine built some 50 years earlier and continuing to print on a huge flat-bed press designed in the 19th Century.

In reality, our transition to photo-offset production was only partial. We did not have computerized typesetting equipment, and instead used a process involving a machine that required typing every word in the newspaper, line by line, while simultaneously doing a bit of mental arithmetic. And then, using the results of this trial typesetting, every line was retyped while inserting or subtracting tiny units of space between words to end up with a properly justified column of type. Headlines were still hand-set with lead type, then inked and proofed and finally pasted onto the layout pages above that twice-typed copy. In the beginning it was less efficient than the old hot-type process. Yet it was an important transition, for it put the newspaper on track to become increasingly efficient.

Today, all writing, typesetting, composition and layout take place on a computer. The time saved is enormous, freeing the editor to focus on the news rather than the production process.

Midway through our final year, the newspaper turned 100. We celebrated with a special 24-page edition. Much of it was written by Nossaman, a meticulous and careful researcher who also pushed deadlines (we were up all night as a result). As part of the celebration, we operated some of the historic equipment, including the Linotype and the old Miehle flat-bed press. Subscribers who dropped by for

cake and ice cream were invited to the rear of the shop, where we printed a cover page on the clattering old Miehle. We handed it to them, hot off the press, as the saying went. The intense work required to print that cover — just four of the 24 pages — confirmed that our move into the offset world had been a good decision.

Moving the shop out of the industrial age toward the computer age was a significant transformation, but a greater one took place within Roz and me. Our time in Silverton gave us a lifelong love for small communities and for community journalism — which is as distinct from the journalism of cities as is the lifestyle. In small communities, the need to support one another is vital — and sweet. I learned about this from George Bingel.

It was winter and the auger, a part that fed coal into the furnace, broke. No auger, no coal to the firebox, no heat. Pipes would begin freezing in a few hours. So, with a shovel I stoked the firebox and got heat going again. But to keep it burning required hand-shoveling every few hours — day and night. The only person in town capable of rebuilding the coal auger was George Bingel, and he had shouted at me a week earlier over an editorial I had written. Nevertheless, I approached him.

Within an hour he was crouching on the floor next to the furnace, dismantling the broken machine. Covered with coal dust and clutching two pieces of broken auger, he left. Three hours later, he returned with the auger now welded into a single, functional piece. He walked past me, headed back to the furnace. Once again he was coated in coal dust, struggling to fit the pieces back into place. When it was reassembled and running, I thanked him. I then asked what I owed him. I had the newspaper's checkbook in my hand.

George looked at me hard for a moment. "Nothing," he said. "In this camp, we help one another. It's what we do."

"But I thought you were mad at me," I said.

"Oh, I am. But we still need each other."

It was a lesson in the dynamics of small communities, how residents understand the interconnectedness that make small towns so wonderful.

George Bingel helped me decide that I'd practice my craft in small communities, and for the next four decades I enjoyed a great life as a community journalist.

Roz and I now live in Walla Walla, Wash., where I retired as publisher of the local newspaper, a small daily serving a community with a strong ethic of service. George Bingel would have felt comfortable here.

ESPER, from Page 2

and the *Tombstone* (Ariz.) *Epitaph*. It's a great honor for this old newspaper.

In this week's *Standard* you will find an 8-page special section, reviewing some of the amazing stories covered in this newspaper since 1875.

This week also marks the end of my fifth year as editor of this newspaper, and the third anniversary of the *Standard* being acquired by the San Juan County Historical Society. It's been quite an adventure.

Last week I spoke to a group of VISTA and AmeriCorps volunteers about the newspaper. I explained what my job entails — everything from taking care of classified ads, legal notices, our calendar of events, taking photos, writing stories, designing the paper, capped off by the weekly drive to Durango to pick up the printed papers, distributing them to the various newspaper racks, then making sure our mail subscriptions get to the Post Office.

Oh, and then I have to update our Web site. It's the ultimate exercise in multi-tasking.

I'm certainly grateful for the help I get from Katy Rende, Katey Fetchenhiel, and Claudia Moe, our bookkeeper.

And I told the young volun-

teers that the *Standard* is surviving for one reason — overwhelming community support.

Operating a newspaper in Silverton has never been easy.

In 1901 the *Standard*, struggling to survive even then, declared (jokingly) that "death notices for delinquent subscribers will not be inserted."

It was a little over three years ago that the *Silverton Standard* had a really close call. The newspaper was then owned by a chain, which ran into a serious financial crunch.

It looked like the *Standard's* closure was imminent and the town would be left without a newspaper for the first time in 134 years.

But I managed to engineer a deal whereby the newspaper was donated to the San Juan County Historical Society.

Thus we have become what I refer to as "Silverton Public Newspaper," operating as a non-profit.

Even the children at our 60-student K-12 school got into the act, donating \$2,000 to the cause, money raised from bake sales and selling some very yummy tamales.

That remains the most humbling moment of this great adventure that is the *Silverton*

Standard.

The historical society inherited a newspaper that was not exactly making money. And it didn't even have a business office in Silverton anymore. All the bookkeeping had been transferred to Telluride a few years earlier.

We managed to fix all that and we ended up having a pretty good first year — subscriptions increased about 25 percent, a remarkable achievement by any measure, and advertising revenue also rose, despite the very challenging economy. We actually turned a profit of \$234 in 2009!

And three years later we're still getting by, if just barely.

We certainly owe a lot to our loyal readers and advertisers.

The *Standard* is demonstrating that it can be a viable business, albeit not a lucrative one.

And I've been getting inquiries from all over the country from small-town newspapers interested in our "public newspaper" model.

I tell them that a quality product is essential, as is community ownership and support.

I also tell them that they may want to review their policies regarding death notices for delinquent subscribers.

CHAPMAN, from Page 2

the actual printing of the paper no longer was going to happen in Silverton for the first time in 100 years of news papering in San Juan County.

No longer would one hear Nossaman's late night vocal emanations from the *Standard* as he fought with the aged and well-worn Linotype typesetting machine, or the even older Miehle press. Another nail was put into the coffin of letterpress printing.

We carried on with the system, gradually making improvements to the process with the addition of photo typesetting machines and later on, getting a start in the computer era. For many years we continued to set the headlines and much of the advertising copy from the ancient collection of cast foundry type that came with the business.

In those days, over thirty-five years ago, the newspaper was not the only aspect of business carried on under the banner of the *Silverton Standard* and the *Miner*. We sold an ever expanding line of books: mostly local, railroad, and Colorado history; did commercial printing by both offset and letterpress methods; and sold office supplies and equipment too.

Fifteen years later when we sold the paper, we had four full time employees plus quite a bit of part-time help in the form of Nossaman, who did printing, a

bookkeeper, and a series of high school students (included indentured family members) who handled the labeling and mailing of the papers.

Through a series of owners after we sold the paper in 1990, the ancillary businesses fell by the wayside, along with the jobs.

Today, with the development of computer technology, many things that were weekly routine are not necessary. No long hours in the darkroom, no retyping stories, no laborious pasting of type into page layouts. The result is that Mark Esper, almost completely by himself, is able to produce a weekly paper, complete with color pictures.

It is not an easy life for Mark and it certainly is not a big money source for the owners. The San Juan County Historical Society. However, Silverton can be proud of the product and in the knowledge that few towns of its size have the advantage of a newspaper of their own.

By Karen Chapman

I had the fun of heading up (and being) the *Standard's* advertising department, covering meetings when there were more meetings than reporters, proof-reading the typeset material, waiting on customers (early on we closed the shop on Wednesday afternoons and tending to the bookkeeping — until we hired a very capable

bookkeeper). It was fun and challenging.

Monday was Travel-to-Durango Day to sell advertising, unless Mother Nature interfered. I battled the elements while George and our loyal employees held the fort — and many times it was a battle. One year I couldn't get out of town on the first day of May. Another time I remember driving up Molas Pass in our old Jeep after a long day in the big city, with Gerald and Mary Swanson riding in the back seat. I was following a trusty CDOT plow and keeping track of where I was by looking out the rear window. In another instance, a helpful passerby and his truck pulled me out of an avalanche on South Molas, after shoveling as much as I could.

Watching spring progress up the valley was another bonus of my travels to Durango — all the different shades of green delighted my eyes. But the beautiful scenery, winter, summer, and fall, made up for the driving. Someone once asked if I ever got bored with the drive and the answer was a resounding NEVER!

Wednesday hours were often late at night and into the early morning, and on six times in fifteen years, a day late, but it was always gratifying to have people waiting for the news of the week.

There were the good times . . . and the bad . . . the happy and the sad . . . but I would never trade the experiences that we had keeping the *Silverton Standard* and the *Miner* a viable part of the community.

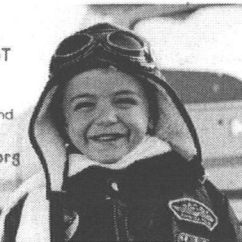
It was and continues to be a community effort thanks to the donation to the Historical Society and the excellent work (except for occasional typos — we had them too) of Mark and his helpers and the support of the San Juan County Historical Society.

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